

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
MARCH 1998**

**HNC REVISION: 15 JULY 1998  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 29 JULY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Victorville Precision Bombing Range  
(PBR) #4

**SITE NUMBER:** J09CA068900

**LOCATION:**

City: Victorville  
County: San Bernardino  
State: California

**PROJECT NUMBER:** J09CA068901

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 4

**ASR RAC:** 3

**TAG RAC:** 3

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Victorville PBR #4 consisted of 640 acres located 11 miles southeast of the town of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California, in the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5, the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 6, the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 7 and

the northwest ¼ of section 8 of T4N, R2W, S.B.B & M. It is located just east-southeast of Apple Valley one mile south of State Route 18 on Laguna Seca Drive. The site is easily reached by off-road vehicle and by foot and is accessible to all visitors. The vast majority of the site is comprised of undeveloped desert land. However, three homes, a power line and an abandoned dry well are on the site. The land is owned by approximately 80 private landowners.

The terrain is primarily flat with a mixture of sage brush and grass. The elevation varies slightly between 3,060 and 3,160 feet above sea level with gradual change in elevations. The site is southwest of the Granite Mountains and northeast of the Ord Mountains. The area is drained by the Mojave River, which is formed by the merging of two tributaries that rise in the San Bernardino Mountains. Most of the land area of the county drains east to the Atlantic Ocean. There is no primary surface water feature directly associated with the site. Since the area is relatively flat, the general drainage for the site is by surface runoff toward the north-northeast.

The region has an arid desert climate characterized by long hot summers, warm winters, little rainfall, sunshine, and low humidity. In winter, the average daily temperature is 45° F and the average daily minimum is 30° F. The corresponding temperatures for summer are 77° F with a average daily maximum of 97° F.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** In May 1943, the War Department acquired 640 acres from private landowners through a declaration of taking for use as a practice bomb target (Victorville PBR #4). It was used by the Army Air Forces as a practice bombing target for the training of AT-11 aircraft student bombardiers. This facility was actually used from 1942 - 1945.

PBR #4 was one of 23 PBRs and 2 demolition bombing targets Victorville Army Air Field (AAF) acquired for bombardier cadet training during WWII. PBR #4 was used to support this training until September 1945. The military improvements on the site consisted of frame butts and appurtenances, fences and gates, and a bombing target located in the center of the site as depicted on ASR maps. The target was composed of asphalt strips five feet wide configured as three concentric circles with radii of 100, 200, and 300 feet. In addition, there were two strips of asphalt which transected the concentric circles at right angles to each other. The only DOD improvements still on the site are the weathered remains of three concentric target rings of the asphalt bombing target. Practice bombs, M38A2, were utilized at the site.

The site was declared excess on 15 January 1946. On 26 January 1946, Victorville PBR #4 was declared surplus. On 20 March 1946, a request was made to withdraw the site from the surplus category for reassignment to the Army Air Forces. The site was placed in an active status on 15 April 1946. After being declared surplus once again on 12 January 1948, PBR #4 was transferred to the War Assets Administration for disposition on 3 September 1948.

## 5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### AREA A

Size, Acres:	6.50
Former Use:	Bomb Target
Present Use:	Undeveloped
Probable End Use:	Undeveloped
Ordnance Presence:	<b>Confirmed</b>
Type:	100 lb practice bombs, M85 and M38A2

### AREA B

Size, Acres:	226.80
Former Use:	Buffer Zone
Present Use:	Undeveloped
Probable End Use:	Undeveloped
Ordnance Presence:	<b>Confirmed</b>
Type:	100 lb practice bombs, M85 and M38A2

### AREA C

Size, Acres:	123.30
Former Use:	Safety Zone
Present Use:	Undeveloped
Probable End Use:	Undeveloped
Ordnance Presence:	<b>Potential</b>
Type:	100 lb practice bombs, M85 and M38A2

### AREA D

Size, Acres:	283.40
Former Use:	Remaining Land
Present Use:	Marginally Developed
Probable End Use:	Marginally Developed
Ordnance Presence:	<b>None</b>
Type:	Not Applicable

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Victorville Precision Bombing Range (PBR) #4 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in March 1998.

7. **STRATEGY:**

**AREA A:** RAC 3;EE/CA  
**AREA B:** RAC 3;EE/CA  
**AREA C:** RAC 3;EE/CA  
**AREA D:** RAC 5;NOFA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group met and discussed this ASR on 29 July 1998 and concurred with USAESCH Safety Comments and the ASR that the appropriate site strategy is **EE/CA, RAC 3** for **Areas A, B and C** and **NOFA, RAC 5** for **Area D**. No energetic OE was discovered by the SI team. Debris from M38A2 and M85 100 lb practice bombs and spotting charges were found by the SI team in **Area A, the Target, and Area B**, that area which surrounds Area A. **Area C** has the potential for OE since it is the area which surrounds Areas A and B. **NOFA** is the strategy for **Area D**, that area at the perimeter of the site furthest away from the target center.

No incidents involving OE have been reported to local authorities concerning this site. There is a record of clearance for this site which states that it was cleared of all dangerous and/or explosive materials and no additional dedudding was required to render it safe for public use. **The ASR had recommended that NOFA be considered for the entire site.**

**HNC Safety Comments:** Concurs with the RAC scores for each of the different areas (3 for Areas A, B and C and 5 for D) and an overall RAC score of 3.

**Clearances:** A report in the ASR at F-16 by the 9200<sup>th</sup> TSU-CE Detachment #15, Bomb and Shell Disposal Team dated 17 June 1948 states: "All lands within the practice bombing ranges (Satellite to Victorville Army Airfield, California) in the Lucerne Valley, designated targets #2, #4, #5, and #18 have been given a careful visual inspection and have been cleared of all dangerous and/or explosive materials. To the best of my knowledge and belief these areas will not require additional dedudding to render safe for public use."

**CWM:** The ASR does not address presence of CWM at the site.

**Other Projects:** None

**Site Access:** Four-wheel drive vehicles are needed to easily access the area.

**Natural Resources:** The threatened desert tortoise as well as various categories of California species occurs in the vicinity of the site and are described in Table 3-2 and Document F-1 of the ASR. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** No historical/cultural resources are recorded for this site. Any intrusive measures taken at the site will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only